

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

January 31, 2008

Present: Ghassane Habib (for Kamal Abu-Shamsieh), Jimmy Bosquez, Roz Clark, Gordon Donoho, Morgan Doizaki, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald Jr., Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel, Enrique Reade, Luke Raughley, Jan Sangster,

Absent: Floyd Harris, Deep Sethi, H. Spees, David Tittle, Darrell Tuckness, Paula Farris, Michael Roth, Debra Odom, Frank Franco, Ed Bailey

Guests: D.C. Robert Nevarez (for Chief Dyer), D.C. Keith Foster, D.C. Pat Farmer, Lt. Burke Farrah, Sgt. Brian Rogers, Lissa Parker, Pat Barr, Fred Clark

Call to Order: The meeting was held in the City Hall Annex Training Room and called to order at 5:40 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from November 29, 2007 were approved with no corrections.

Agenda Items:

Opening Remarks:

Rangel: Inquired as to whether the subject of Mediation has been discussed w/Chief Dyer. Also: Voiced concern about newspaper stand in front of P.D. being vandalized. No security cameras.

Nevarez: Dispatchers leaving work very late have also voiced some concern. Safety issues are being addressed.

Doizaki: Request to add Bicycle Officers to the agenda.

Traffic Statistics and Achievements: Deputy Chief Farmer

Fresno has become a much safer place to drive. Total collisions: down 3.2% from previous year; down 25% from 2002. Injury collisions down 30% from 2002. Fatal collisions down 50% from 2002. 79 fewer people died as a result of a DUI than in 2002.

Trace Program for 2008: Trace alcohol back to source. When juveniles are involved in criminal activity with alcohol, ABC is notified and an investigation to trace the alcohol back to the source is stated. The idea is to prosecute the adult who provided the alcohol.

Scared Stiff: Motors and MADD talk to people involved in DUI incidents; they are introduced to photographs, videos and victims. Recidivism is very low: approximately 2%.

Watching Courthouse: Persons with suspended licenses tend to drive to court. Traffic officers stop those who drive away from the court house, issue citations and possibly impound the vehicles.

Barwatch: Continuing efforts to catch impaired drivers leaving bars.

Checkpoints: Continuing efforts to catch impaired drivers on the roadways.

Traffic Revenues: DC Nevarez mentioned that there will be change to the way traffic revenues are collected by the city. Now the revenue split is 24% to the City and 76% to the County. In March this formula will be reversed.

Crime Statistics: Deputy Chief Farmer

Went over FPD 2007 Highlights, stressing the following points:

- Crime peaked in 2001 and has steadily declined every year since. Reason: New Chief of Police.
- Policing does make a difference. How the Department applies its resources makes a difference.
- If 10% of people are responsible for 90% of the crime, you focus on that 10%. A large proportion of focus has been upon the Bulldog Gang.

Have made it clear that if you are a gang member in Fresno, you have three options:

1. We will catch you and arrest you
2. Continue your gang lifestyle; just don't do it here
3. Change your lifestyle and live within the law

Renewed focus on homicides for 2008: Post-violence Incident Meeting. Unit heads will have to answer for any homicide occurring on their watch and will have to have a plan to prevent retaliation.

Video Policing: Lieutenant Burke Farrah

Recent shooting caught by Video Policing camera monitoring high-prostitution area has demonstrated what a powerful investigative tool these cameras can be. Fresno currently has 27 operational cameras and another 20 in place but not operational. Hopefully the cameras will prove a deterrent to crime as well.

The cameras are not currently being monitored on a full-time basis. FPD is asking the City Council for fulltime staffing for the cameras. Monitors will likely be trained Cadets. Department is also considering options regarding oversight of the system.

Largest issue with the system right now lies in the wireless technology. The cameras are able to be operated with a joystick and have full pan, tilt and zoom capabilities. In order for the system to operate to its fullest potential, there can be no lag between the operation of the controls and the camera itself.

Placement of the cameras is dictated by the location of the crime.

Bike Patrol Officers

Doizaki: Inquiring about the likelihood of the Bike Patrol being reduced or discontinued due to budget issues. They have a good response time; they are always around, creating police presence; they help foster a friendly, approachable image for the Department. Now that foot traffic is increasing down town, there is an even greater need for Bike Patrol. Requests Bike Patrol not be cut.

Nevarez: All options are being considered. Unfortunately, if it's between bike officers and officers responding to 9-1-1 calls, it will have to be the Bike Patrol that gets cut.

Round Table

McDonald: Heard that a large number of homeless people had been arrested. Inquired as to what happened. Also inquired as to whether the Mayor has looked into a transitional housing program.

Nevarez: The paper said it was 50 arrests; it was 15. Not necessarily homeless people but street people who may have been preying on the homeless or engaged in other criminal activity. The City is trying to put together a long-term plan / system to address homelessness and related issues. The Mayor is considering a lot of different things.

Roz Clark: Mentioned that there has been a series of purse thefts from the shopping center at Marks/Bullard near the Shapemakers business. DC Nevarez advised this would be looked into.

Announcements:

Rebeca Rangel is looking for overnight parking for Kingsburg Behavioral Center vehicles.

"Officers / Employees of The Year" awards banquet to be held Friday, Feb. 29th at 6:00 p.m. at Torino's Banquet Hall. \$35.00 per person. Contact 621-2300 or 442-3762 for tickets.

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Next Meeting:

February 28th, 2008